OPINION
Black History Month
Terri Moise '17 illuminates the politics surrounding the tradition on **page 6**

FEATURES
The Leprechaun Closet
Exploring a little-known closet in the Sadove Student Center attic on **page 8**

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
Talking about writing
What Dominican writer, dancer, actress Josephine Báez has to tell us on **page 11**

1847 The Spectator

The Spectator

Thursday,
March 3, 2016
Volume LVI
Number 18

Angela Davis delivers powerful talk on racism and mass incarceration

by Rylee Carrillo-Waggoner '19
Staff Writer

By 4:45 p.m. on Friday, every chapel pew was packed. At 5 p.m., Dr. Angela Davis would take the stage. Victor Bene '18 began the event with a powerful introduction. Recounting the numerous battles Davis fought in her personal and political life, Bene concluded, "Angela Davis is a miracle."

Floating through the loudspeakers came Kim and Reggie Harris's "Freedom is a Constant Struggle" as Dr. Angela Davis walked into a crowd of clapping hands. At the podium, Dr. Davis quickly commented, "what I like about this freedom song is first of all the irony…we must be free but are we really free." This theme pulsed throughout her speech as she questioned democracy, specifically in America and in relation to our prison system.

PHOTO BY OLIVIA FULLER '19

She challenged the audience to "transform our ways of thinking about democracy." Democracy at first was for the minority, but in our current state, people are shunned for speaking out. Davis used Beyoncé's Super Bowl performance to exemplify this. The police were infuriated by the performance and the music she released the day before because it presented them in a negative light.

"I'm glad that Beyoncé did that performance," commented Davis. Pop culture is becoming political and presenting issues that need to be transformed.

She presented Kendrick Lamar's Grammy performance as further support, yet also noted that she was critical of the uncomplicated portrayal of Africa. She felt that "you can embrace something passionately and be critical at the same time."

While Lamar's performance did simplistically portray Africa, he shed light on the injustice present in the American prison system, a topic about which Davis is passionate.

She noted that prison is the result of democracy because it deprives people of the rights democracy assures as punishment. Then came a line of statistics showing that one in thirty five adults in America are directly controlled by the criminal justice system and that currently one third of the women imprisoned in the world are imprisoned in America.

"This is a prison nation," Davis pronounces, "rather than a democratic nation."

*see **Voices** page 3*

New peer counseling program

Students to work with Counseling Center to augment campus mental health services. Page 2.

Step Afrika! company brings high-energy performance to Wellin

PHOTO BY BEN MITTMAN '18

The world's first professional dance company devoted to stepping, Step Afrika!, blended stepping, traditional African dance and other forms. Review, page 10.

College Hill Road vehicle-pedestrian accident on Saturday night

by Haley Lynch '17
Managing Editor

Last Saturday night, students were peripherally aware of a commotion on College Hill Road. Rumors flew around campus, but no real information was provided to the student body until Dean of Students Nancy Thomson's Tuesday afternoon e-mail confirmed that the beloved Marge Petteys had been the victim of a car-pedestrian accident just outside of the Azel Backus House.

Subsequent conversations with Director of Campus Safety Francis Manfredo and the Kirkland Police Department helped clarify the story. According to both sources, the incident occurred at 6:40 p.m., just after the hockey game on Saturday night.

Farzad Khosravi '16 was present and the only eye-witness that night. After describing the crash, he added that the driver "reacted immediately, perfectly. He stopped faster than I could see and jumped out of the car to help." He also noted that the streetlight just above had actually been out at the time, leaving a normally dim street even dimmer.

Khosravi recounted that the first help to arrive on the scene was Hamilton's nurse practitioner, who was serendipitously in the car just behind and immediately took control of the situation.

The Hamilton College Emergency Medical Service (HCEMS) and Campus Safety arrived on the scene soon after, but local police and emergency services arrived just moments later and took over. Complaining of injuries to the head and leg, Petteys was transported to Saint Elizabeth Medical Center in Utica, where she underwent successful surgery to treat a broken ankle. She is expected to heal with no lasting physical effects.

The Kirkland Police Officer on the scene reported to *The Spectator* that "Other than it being windy, the roads were dry and traffic was normal for College Hill Road on a weekend night. She wasn't paying attention and was struck." In fact, Petteys received a ticket from the Kirkland Police Department for attempting to jaywalk when a crosswalk when one was available. The officer emphasized several times that the driver involved — a Hamilton student — was "100 percent sober and driving the speed limit." On a dark night, it is understandably difficult to spot a pedestrian where one is not expected, and the driver was absolved of the blame for the incident.

Students have been responding to the news with warmth and support for Marge. Emma Reynolds '17 reflected, "my Poetry & Poetics class wrote a sonnet about Marge last year and everyone chimed in with spot-on lines describing her stories, her personal greetings, and her genuine character. She's a staple across all of Hamilton—no matter what your major is or what sport or club you participate in, you know exactly who Marge is."

Petteys' shining character has been recognized all across campus, ever since she began working as a Bon Appétit employee in 1996. In 2008, the Alumni Association presented her with its Distinguished Service Award to commemorate her above-and-beyond dedication to the College.

Of the incident, Lauren Pyo '17 commented, "When I found out that Marge got hit by a car, I was very concerned and sad. This is such a terrible situation, but hopefully it will cause drivers and pedestrians to be more aware and cautious. I wish Marge a speedy and full recovery, and we all look forward to having her back on the Hill!"

Students and Counseling Center to collaborate on new peer counseling program

by Emily Eisler '17
Staff Writer

As *The Spectator* has reported frequently over the past year, the Counseling Center at Hamilto has been struggling to meet the increasing demand from students. They have hired more staff and given students access to a psychiatrist, but their new solution to the demand problem is thinking outside the box. This semester, the Counseling Center announced a new initiative to begin in Fall 2016: the Peer Counseling Program.

This new program will serve as an additional mental health resource for students. Students themselves will be the ones meeting with other Hamilton students to help address their needs and discuss their concerns.

The peer counselors will also hold events centered on stress reduction and wellness. This is a revolutionary program for the College in that it hopes to evolve into a health resource run for students by students.

"I came to Hamilton for the people, and my college experience would be nothing without them. Hamilton is an amazing place where people accomplish amazing things," student director Sarah Fishman '16 said. "But I promise you no one, absolutely no one gets through their four years without some type of mental health struggle, although these are varied in content and severity."

The Peer Counseling program will provide new accessibility to mental health assistance, such as possible overnight on-call access and open office hours. It will also provide many wellness-based services.

Dr. Heather Cosgrove of the Counseling Center stated, "Our ultimate goal is to provide an excellent resource that enhances already available mental health services on campus by connecting peers to peers, raising awareness and providing education about personal wellness."

She also hopes that by recruiting counsellors from the student body, the participants in the program will be representative of the student body. That way, the Peer Counseling Program will be able to address the diverse needs of a unique and broad student body.

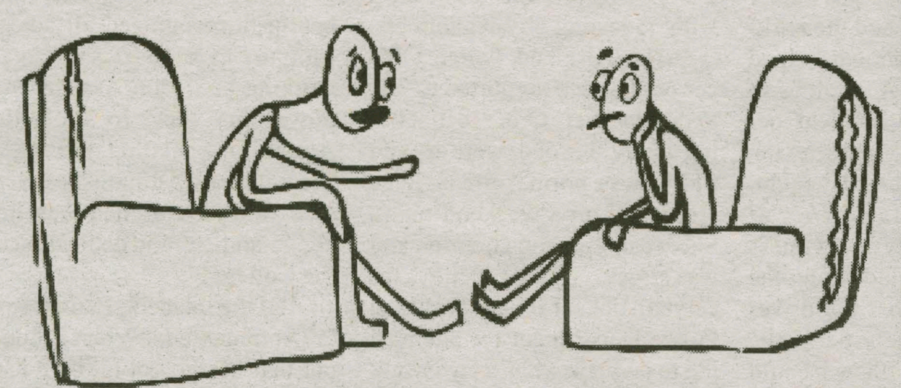
"This program was not previously sustainable nor successful without the help of the Counseling Center, which is now generous enough to let me help them incorporate this new program into their network," Fishman acknowledged. "They have been an invaluable resourse for planning and for the initiation of the program this Spring and next Fall."

"My hope for the Peer Counseling program is that it will act as an intermediary between the professional counselors and friends," Fishman said. "I am very excited for this program, both for the students who can utilize it and for the Peer Counselors who will have the opportunity to get training and support from the Counseling Center."

"Hamilton is an amazing place where people accomplish amazing things. But I promise you no one, absolutely no one gets through this four years without some tye of mental health struggle."
— Sarah Fishman '16

Applications were due this week to become a Peer Counselor. Those who are chosen will go on to take part in the first training class next fall.

The training will include risk assessment, basic counselling skills and outreach programming. Dr. Cosgrove praised the student body for their strong interest in the program and encourages anybody interested to reach out to her or Fishman who is assisting the Counselling Center with this program in her role as student director.



BY CHARLOTTE SIMONS '16

AMHERST BATES BOWDOIN COLBY CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

NESCAC NEWS

by Dillon Kelly '18
News Editor

Amherst offers course on future of education

The Amherst Careers in Education Professions Program offered an Interterm course very similar to reality TV shows such as *The Amazing Race* and *Shark Tank*. Students were divided into teams, given access to some of the most experienced education leaders in the area and were then asked to create a new and unique concept that in some way serves the community. According to the Amherst website, "The goal was to address problems that get in the way of the level playing field for all students." Students' ideas included plans for a public charter school and full-service community schools. The panel of teachers who judged the students was impressed and hopeful about the state of education moving forward.

Bowdoin students use digital media to educate on river pollution

A few students at Bowdoin College currently enrolled in an art class—Site-Specifics: Production of Socially Engaged Media—created videos that comment on the past and present state of the Androscoggin River. This river flows 178 miles through Maine and New Hampshire and was at one time so polluted that it helped inspire the Clean Water Act. According to the Bowdoin website, the aim of the class is to show "how digital media technologies can serve as tools for creative cultural practice."

Trinity student creates app for students to sell textbooks

Micah Onditi '18 spent last summer learning about the technology behind smartphone applications. With this knowledge, Onditi created Mivy, an app that allows college students to sell used textbooks to one another. The app already has over 200 registered users at various colleges around the Northeast. The Trinity College website states, "Mivy users must have a valid .edu email address to sign up for an account. Students can post textbooks for sale and browse books for sale by other users." The sellers then set the prices, leaving the buyer to either pay that price or make a lower offer.

MIDDLEBURY TRINITY TUFTS WESLEYAN WILLIAMS

Voices of Color Lecture Series presents activist Angela Davis

*from **Davis**, page 1*

"Donald Trump advocates for decarceration, but that alone," says Davis, "will not be enough." Instead, Davis reintroduces the idea of abolition, inviting us to refrain from devising an "easy fix to the prison crisis or anything else," not to "isolate policing and over-incarceration without taking into consideration other structures," and to acknowledge the "long history of racism" and its effects that remain today.

She evoked W.E.B. Dubois's claim that abolition won't be successful until the slavery and colonization implicated in the process of democracy are removed. Currently, "this is still a simpler colonial society," states Davis, and there must be "critical resistance… [It is] essential to develop organizing strategies that do not allow discrimination to go unobserved." Prisons have not always been "among us" thus one should not "settle for the end of mass incarceration but incarceration period."

"This is a prison nation rather than a democratic nation."
— Angela Davis

Dr. Angela Davis ended on a note of hope. She emphasized that one must ask why someone commits a crime and that this answer must be addressed. She labels this "justice that helps us to build a compassionate world…one that acknowledges the importance of black lives and thus also all lives."

Congratulations to 2016 Phi Beta Kappa inductees:

Nejla Asimovic	Lillie Ogden
Joelle Baer	Matthew Palmer
Rachel Beamish	Kenneth Ratliff
Laura Becker	Ianna Recco
Christopher Bousquet	Rebecca Rees
Kathleen Buckley	Nicole Saitta
Gaela Sarah Dennison-Leonard	Nathaniel Somes
Joan Frost	Steven Stone
Caitlin Kennedy	Ryan Sutyla
Lauren King	Michael Verostek
Elisabeth MacColl	Hannah Withiam
Alex Mitko	Rachael Wilkin
Michael Nelson	

Chemist pursues "diversity excellence" in the sciences

by Kirsty Warren '18
News Editor

Professor Rigoberto Hernandez, who teaches chemistry and biochemistry at Georgia Tech, presented a chemistry lecture "Emergent Structure of Nanoparticles" on Friday Feb. 26 but his Feb. 25 lecture, "Advancing Science Through Diversity" was a window into his social science rather than his natural science work. The 2015-2016 Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar spoke about his organization, the Open Chemistry Collaborative in Diversity Equity (OXIDE).

Early in the lecture, Hernandez explained where the acronym comes from: to a person with dyslexia, the two C's of "Chemistry" and "Collaborative" form an 'X.' OXIDE supports faculty of backgrounds that have traditionally been underrepresented in the sciences and pursues "diversity excellence" along the lines of gender, race, sexual orientation and ability.

"The NSF [National Science Foundation] told us we couldn't be a 'center,' because that would be a lot more paperwork—and we were already doing a lot of paperwork," Hernandez said of OXIDE's founding. "Collaborative is a better term because we collaborate collectively to find barriers and solutions. If we were a center it would be like claiming we are the originators of all that is known."

Throughout the lecture, Hernandez posed questions to the Science Center Kennedy Auditorium crowd and encouraged discussion among the audience. The first question pertained to gender equality: "A paleontologist, an astronomer and a chemist walk up to a bar. What does she order?"

Displaying a photo of a LEGO set of female scientists, Hernandez asked whether anyone pictured three women and went on to point out that "in LEGO color, these are all white women so this isn't diversity along all vectors. If we want diversity excellence, we want diversity along gender, race and ethnicity, disabilities and sexuality."

The second question to the audience was what they viewed as the most important driver for advancing diversity equity in science: social justice, personal enlightenment or 'optimal workforce utilization.'

"Social justice, whether you believe in it or not—and if you believe in it, I love you—won't get everybody. At most, it will get you about 50 percent [of people]. As will enlightened self-interest. When you say it's about optimal workforce utilization, you're saying 'it's not just me, it's for everyone,'" Hernandez said, explaining that his answer was 'optimal workforce utilization.' "When it's about competitiveness with inclusive excellence as the driver, I get 1.6 million dollars. With social justice, I would have gotten zero dollars."

OXIDE works primarily with graduate institutions, trying to deconstruct implicit bias and barriers to accessibility for faculty and students of underrepresented minorities (URM). As Hernandez said, the standard system for faculty hiring makes it harder to identify qualified URM candidates.

"It's about competitiveness with inclusive excellence as the driver," Hernandez said. "When we're situating events, how do we make sure they're open and accommodating to everyone?"

On the topic "colorblindness" ethos, Hernandez said, "If you tell me you don't see parts of me that I value, you're telling me you don't see me."

One of OXIDE's primary goals is to "flatten diversity inequities by placing the responsibility and credit on institutions and administrators," rather than students. "Instead of saying 'let's place all the burden on one of the students who happens to be of color,' it's the institution who has all the resources and access," he said.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency and draw attention to students' dangerous and destructive behaviors, *The Spectator* will publish a selection of the previous weekend's incidents each Thursday. The entire report is available in the online edition of *The Spectator.* Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* will use their discretion regarding what is published.

Friday, February 26, 2016

1:27 A.M. Trouble Alarm – ABC House
1:40 A.M. Noise Complaint – Babbitt Hall
3:27 P.M. Smoke Detector – Dunham Hall
3:30 P.M. Alcohol Policy Violation – Dunham Hall
5:05 P.M. Mechanical Issue – Howard Diner
9:30 P.M. Medical Emergency – Bundy Dining
11:37 P.M. Medical Emergency – Bundy Dining
11:55 P.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

Saturday, February 20, 2016

12:36 A.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
12:44 A.M. Trespass – Burke Library
1:01 A.M. Area Check – Birnie Bus
1:48 A.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
2:10 A.M. Medical Emergency – Tolles Pavilion
2:52 P.M. Smoke Detector – Bundy West Residence Hall
6:40 P.M. Motor Vehicle Accident – College Hill Road
10:24 P.M. Motorist Assist – College Hill Road
10:20 P.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
11:28 P.M. Medical Emergency – Sadove Center

Sunday, February 28, 2016

12:04 A.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
1:18 A.M. Area Check – Alumni Gym
1:35 A.M. Mechanical Issue – Bundy West
1:40 A.M. Larceny Complaint – Carnegie Residence Hall
2:20 A.M. Noise Complaint – Babbitt Hall
2:51 A.M. Trouble Alarm – Bundy West Residence Hall
3:38 A.M. Illegal Drug Complaint – Howard Diner
4:12 A.M. Trespass – Chapel
4:43 P.M. Hazardous Condition – Bundy East Residence Hall
4:43 P.M. Property Damage – Bundy East Residence Hall

The *Spec*'s midterm review

As we near the midpoint of the semester, *The Spectator* would like to take this opportunity to reflect on our work in 2016 so far.

Last week, we reported on this year's third Crucial Conversation gathering under the headline "Decreased attendance for third Community Crucial Conversation." A photo showed many empty seats in the Fillius Events Barn during the event. Responses to this piece were mixed, since some viewed the portrayal of lower attendance as negative commentary on the initiative.

Originally established in response to student demand, the first Community Crucial Conversation took place in November with the stated goal of discussing diversity, Yik Yak and the need for more faculty of color at Hamilton. Both this and the later conversation in December were extremely well-attended and reportedly productive. According to a *Spec* article from Dec. 3, ("Campus continues to debate and discuss inclusion"), everyone who had attended that meeting agreed to take an active role in "making our community better." In light of this, it seems particularly noteworthy that the third conversation was so poorly attended.

Though it may be disheartening to find reports of decreased attendance to these essential discussions in our pages, it is nonetheless imperative that they be noted. *The Spectator*'s job is not to report rosy campus propaganda, but to establish facts. If the campus population is under the false impression that others are doing the work for them, the social justice initiative will not be able to continue. It is absolutely necessary, therefore, that *The Spectator* pursues a high degree of journalistic integrity--that the campus may interact with reality instead of fall into comfortable complacency with a result of a false understanding of the events taking place around us.

Along with this, we hope for better engagement with the community. We have been pleased with the recent Letters to the Editor, signalling an appreciable level of community commitment and passion regarding the goings-on about campus. Moreover, a recent e-mail from Dean of Faculty Pat Reynolds on replacing the valedictorian speaker at Commencement references reporting by the *Spec*. We hope that in reporting on the anticipated change, we gave the process a little nudge forward, and we hope to be more proactive like that in the future.

Despite our many limitations as an organization, we aim to give back more to the community—facilitating conversations, sharing stories and pushing issues into public discussion—and we hope that these few moments from the semester so far are a sign that we're moving in the right direction.

We invite your feedback; let us know you think we're doing through emails or letters to the editor.

***The Spectator* editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.**

twitter
Follow us
@HCSpectator

Visit *The Spectator* online:
students.hamilton.edu/spectator
facebook.com/hcspectator

***The Spectator* is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board. A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication. The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely and high-quality publication.**

Please Recycle Your Copy of *The Spectator*

Celebrating 167 years, we were first published as The Radiator *in 1848.*

The Spectator

Editor-in-Chief
Lucas Phillips

Managing Editor
Haley Lynch

Editor Emerita
Kaitlin McCabe

Features Editors
Rachel Beamish
Sophie Gaulkin

Opinion Editors
Caroline Harrington
Madeleine Maher

Arts & Entertainment Editors
Bridget Lavin
Max Newman

Photography Editors
Benjamin Mittman
Olivia Fuller

Advertising Manager
Njideka Ofoleta

Illustrator
Charlotte Simons

News Editors
Dillon Kelly
Kirsty Warren

Sports Editors
Patrick Malin
Sterling Xie

Production Editors
Natalie Adams
Chris Bousquet
Andrew Gibeley
Pat Marris
Clare Rock

Senior Editors
Yoshi Hill
Brian Sobotko

Web Editor
Zach Batson

Digital Strategy
Michael Levy

Copy Editors:
Zoë Bodzas, Sabrina Boutselis, Nora Boyle, Phoebe Duke-Mosier, Amelia Heller, Kyung Noh, Junpei Taguchi

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

Angela Davis inspires Hamilton campus

by Njideka Ofoleta '16
Advertising Manager

Last Friday, Feb. 26, the Hamilton community had the distinct honor of receiving the legendary Dr. Angela Davis set to lecture in the chapel. Renowned political activist and author, Davis played an integral role in the Civil Rights Movement as an unapologetic critic of social situations.

I first learned about Angela Davis after watching the *Black Power Mixtape*, a film documenting the evolution of the Black Power movement in the United States. I found myself simply awed by the eloquence with which the young Angela Davis spoke on systematic oppression in our country.

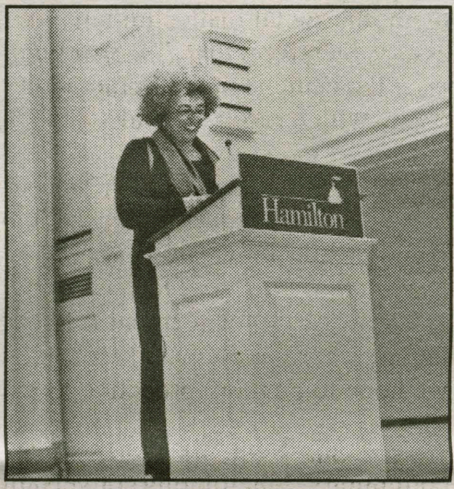
As I watched her on the Chapel stage forty years after this documentary was made, I found her just as mesmerizing, if not more. While her arguments were more concrete and based in factual evidence, her conviction and intellectual prowess still shined through her words. In the documentary, Davis seemed clearly agitated as a result of the United States' climate during the Civil Rights Movement. Like a fine wine, age had calmed and soothed her demeanor, allowing her to weave an intellectual discussion aimed at educating. As a young woman of color, I don't see many representations of such women on Hamilton's campus, so having Angela Davis here gave me hope. To see someone like myself who also had attended a predominantly white institution (PWI) and felt what it is to be silenced by the voice of the majority and effectively turn that time into a period of self-education was everything to me.

The Voices of Color Lecture Series brought political activist and author Dr. Angela Davis to speak to the Hamilton community on Feb. 26.

Listening to Dr. Angela Davis on that stage, I realized something. In 50 years, I could very well reach her level of academic prowess, gain her experience about the world and acquire the agency to assert my own stance on the issues of social justice that I feel strongly about, WITHOUT fear. Through the talk, I realized the power of intellectuality, self education and the hunger for knowledge. As America experiences a trend of anti-intellectual elitism and an exaltation of ignorance, encountering an intellectual like Angela Davis is truly an inspiration. She sparked an inspiration to consciously analyze and deconstruct systems of oppression that have allowed the Donald Trumps of our generation to rise to power.

I can't say exactly how the greater Hamilton community reacted to Davis' speech or what they took back; however, in talking to a couple people there seems to be some critique. Some said they thought she was a bit disorganized; others didn't agree with some of her viewpoints. Yet there was a general consensus that Dr. Davis encouraged everyone to think critically and ask questions about the world in which they live. Reminiscent of the quote by George Shaw, "You see things and you say 'why?' But I dream things that never were and I say 'why not?'" Dr. Davis pushed me to want to bring about changes in the world that many could never imagine. I hope that after this lecture, individuals from Hamilton's campus acknowledge their own privilege and do their best to improve the conditions of every member of society, especially the most marginalized.

There were two types of people who came to the lecture on Friday: those who came to see the woman behind the name and those who came to be inspired and educated. In a sense, they are one in the same, but I hope that all left with a critical analysis of the "democracy" we live in. To the activists, I hope that there is a sense of renewal; I hope Angela reminded you of what you are fighting for, as it can be easy to grow disillusioned at the PWI that is Hamilton. I hope that she has encouraged you NOT to allow your voice to be silenced, as Hamilton can often be a place where the voices of those who try to enact change will often be silenced by other agendas. For the non-activists, I hope that a spark has been ignited in you, a spark that burns bright enough to motivate you to seek to change the climate in which we live. Angela Davis has succeeded in reminding us that if we don't stand for something, we will truly fall for anything. Never forget that.



PHOTOS BY SEAN HENRY-SMITH '15

Activist Angela Davis speaks to the community in the Chapel.

What NEDAW means to me, a survivor

by Maddy Maher '18
Opinion Editor

On Sunday, Feb. 21, my phone was flooded with messages from a group text that is seldom used these days. Most of the messages from each member were identical, but profoundly impactful nonetheless: "Happy National Eating Disorder Awareness Week, ladies." While I hardly talk to these girls anymore, I can say with full confidence that they are some of the most important friends I have ever made and will ever have. These are the girls I met during my year off from Hamilton, who helped me feel like I was not alone in my struggles. These are the girls who helped save my life.

In our group text, my friends and I decided to make this year's National Eating Disorder Awareness Week (or NEDAW) count on our respective college campuses and resolved to share the stories of our struggles on Facebook in order to help fight the stigma against mental illness. We wanted to show our friends and peers that you can still be a so-called "normal person" while battling a mental illness and that being sick in no way means that you are "crazy." Yet, while I am unashamed of the obstacles I have overcome, I was worried about sharing such personal struggles so publically with the Hamilton community in particular.

Here on the Hill, students are expected to perform at the top of their game all day every day. We do not get tired; we do not break down and we do not settle for anything shy of excellence from our peers and from ourselves. I procrastinated sharing my post for a few hours out of fear that my Hamilton peers would view my story as documentation of my weakness and shortcomings rather than my strength. Yet after contemplating, I finally realized that this fear of being seen as "weak" or "falling short" was feeding the very stigma that my girls and I were setting out to fight.

In the days leading up to NEDAW, I was disappointed by that there was very little mention of the nationally recognized week meant to address such serious illnesses. Eating disorders impact over 30 million Americans alone and have the highest mortality rate of any mental illness. Other than the "Our Voices, We Speak" meeting on eating disorder awareness, which speaker Alexa Merriam '17 reports was sparsely attended, there was virtually no mention or recognition of eating disorders or eating disorder awareness on campus. I was rapidly losing hope in the Hamilton community's ability to sympathize with the mentally ill until I finally posted my story.

In the following few days, I was reminded why I love this school so much. Countless individuals approached me, letting me know that they were inspired by how brave my post was. Many had no idea that it was National Eating Disorder Awareness Week until they read my post and told me that my message encouraged them to reach out to their friends and family members who have also struggled, in order to let them know how proud they were of their loved ones for continuing to fight. Multiple peers also expressed that they, too, have struggled with some form of mental illness and feared speaking out about it in this environment for the same reasons that I initially was scared. While the high-pressure environment on campus still concerns me, as well as the fact that NEDAW was so poorly recognized by the school's counseling center or other on-campus organizations, the incredibly kind and thoughtful responses that I received from my fellow Continentals leave me hopeful for the future of on-campus mental health. Awareness on campus is not nearly where it should be, but Hamilton students are lucky to be surrounded by such open-minded and caring individuals if and when they choose to speak out.

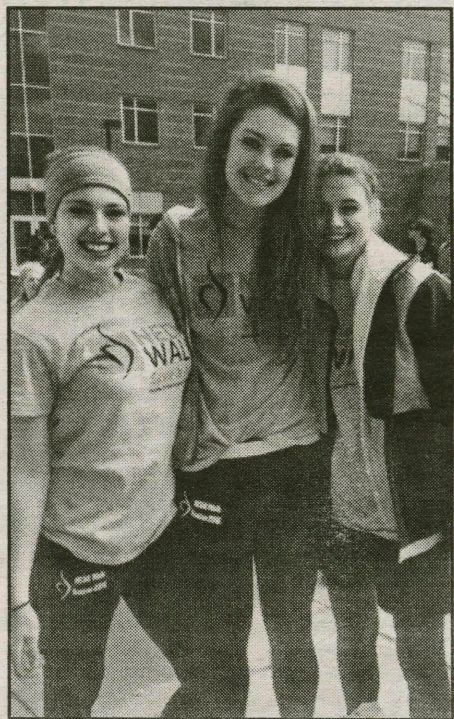


PHOTO COURTESY OF MADDY MAHER '18

Maher '18 with two fellow survivors at the annual National Eating Disorder Association walk in Boston, MA last April.

February results: 5% Black, 0% History

by Terri Moise '17
Staff Writer

Let me begin with a few facts. First, black history does not begin on February 1st, nor does it end on February 28th. Second, despite the dominant narrative taught in schools, black history does not begin after colonialism and is not centered on the legacy of slavery. Finally, black history is to be celebrated and acknowledged, not disregarded as institutions choose to do.

When the month of February began, I was hoping that Hamilton would make an effort to celebrate the achievements and contributions of people of African descent, even within the limited timespace of the allotted 29 days. The Black and Latino Student Union, the Rainbow Alliance and La Vanguardia were the only organizations that made an effort to discuss blackness outside of conventional conceptions. Yet, discussing Afro-Latinx identity, black LGBTQ+ figures and the significance of black inventions falls on ears that have heard this rhetoric before. And they continue to hear this rhetoric. Time and time again, the students who attend meetings and events for these cultural clubs, are in fact a part of these cultural communities. Non-ironically, there is no diversity because the majority students choose not to participate.

Thus, for a private, predominantly white institution like Hamilton, it comes as no surprise that there was no grand acknowledgement of Black History Month, even though our own Alexander Hamilton was from the Caribbean country of Nevis and there was speculation during his time that he was mixed-race.

Yet, what is the significance of Black History Month? Originally beginning as Negro History Week in 1926, the main point of Black History Month was to encourage the inclusion of the genuine history of black Americans and the history of the African continent as a whole. As the years passed, Black History Month has grown from a week to a month with a continuous and never-ending goal of challenging the dominant narrative. However, even with this goal, Black History Month was used as a tool of supremacists to pacify and reduce the impact and radical ideologies of commonly discussed black figures, such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks and Toni Morrison by limiting the celebration to one month of the year.

> "Black History Month does not solely exist for the betterment of black individuals. It is a form of representation that, in part, is meant to educate other races and ethnicities."

Even with this, black people have found a way to thrive. With the development and growth of social media, individuals have taken to teaching others about black history with a prominent example being the hashtag, #BlackHistoryYouDidn'tLearnInSchool. For black people, black history is a time of celebration and rejoicing as well as an act of remembrance for the lives lost for countless struggles and crusades. Black History Month is yet another month for black individuals to honor their blackness.

But, Black History Month does not solely exist for the betterment of black individuals. It is a form of representation that, in part, is meant to educate other races and ethnicities. It is meant to aid in the recognition of black individuals as more than bodies lying in the street. Yet, Hamilton College chooses not to explicitly celebrate this month. What does this lead to? Instead of students recognizing that their black peers are actually students with complex existences outside of their race, black students are more likely to hear, "Are you Posse or HEOP?" By not acknowledging Black History Month on an institutional level, Hamilton College ignores how black individuals have contributed to the college, whether willingly or unwillingly.

I, for one, know that Hamilton College can do a lot better in terms of recognizing Black History Month, on a student and institutional level. Cultural organizations make their best effort to educate and be inclusive of other groups, but we must recognize that students outside of these organizations will inevitably make their own choices. While some individuals continue to rap to A$AP Ferg in the privacy of their rooms, I thank those who recognize and celebrate blackness outside of the month of February. Remember, everyone wants to be black until it's time to be black.

Corrections:

In last week's article "Where in the world is the Italian minor?" there was an error stating that the Italian department was founded in 2011. The language has in fact been offered for at least 30 years thanks to the support of the Critical Languages Program, yet it still remains without a distinct department. 2011 marked a shift when Professor Mary Sisler arrived and added numerous extracurricular Italian cultural activities. Also, the photo should have been credited to Elza Harb '18. Finally, Harb is a History major, not a Government major.

Thumbs Up

Alternative Spring Break: Off to Florida with Dave Franco!

CAB Coffeehouse Sea Wolf: As Shakira always says, "There's a Sea Wolf in the coffeehouse."

Leap for Hamilton Made Just Under $1 Million: So can you stop charging for the jitney now??

Thumbs Down

Writing Center Printer B Down: No Plan B? Stop defunding the Writing Center.

Drop Deadline: But if Ted Cruz were running this school, he'd say that all course schedules strictly begin at registration.

Post Grad Plans: After securing jobs in NYC, Carrie and Jessye accidentally bought an apartment in the wrong Williamsburg. JK! Hire us.

Who Cares?

Super Tuesday: because chair massages!

Spring Break Buses: Next stop: The fifth best topless bar and grille all the way down in Daytona Beach!

Office Hours in Commons: Held by a professor who is just trying avoid looking uncool by sitting alone.

by Jessye McGarry '16 and Carrie Solomon '16

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

We want YOU

...to write for *The Spectator*!

Email spec@hamilton.edu if you are interested.

Bachelor and Bachelorette

Jared Mandelbaum '18

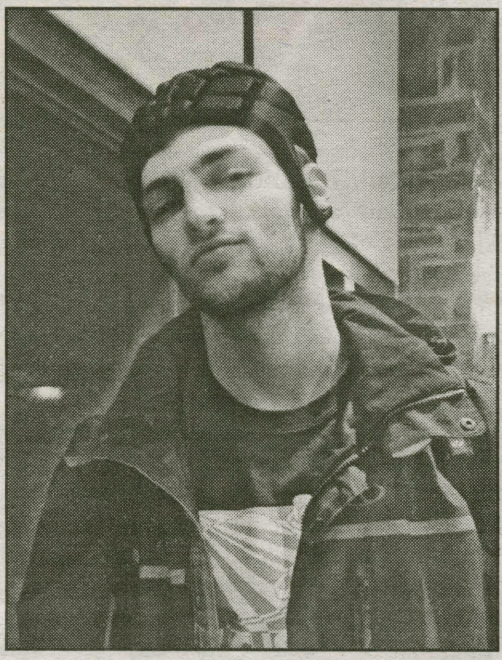


PHOTO COURTESY OF JARED MANDELBAUM '18

Hometown: *New York, NY*
Home on Campus: *Sub-free.*
Major: *Environmental Studies, Minor in Cliteracy.*
Turn On? *Confidence.*
Turn Off? *Cilantro.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Root—I don't like being puked on.*
Lights on or lights off? *Lights off—I provide the fireworks.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Kim Kardashian and Kanye West—I feel like things are pointing up for me.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *Melts in your mouth, not in your hands.*
What TV genre best describes you? *Tragic Comedy.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *"My friend wants to f--- you."*
What's your type? *Alive.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Granola bars, friends, moisturizer for moisturizing.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *VT—if you're not paying for your alcohol, you're doing it wrong.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *Toilet.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *TDX.*
What's your patronus and why? *Quokka—it always looks like it's smiling.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Sex in an academic building—that would mean I successfully had sex for once.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *A butthole.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *A--holes.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Marge Petteys.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *Matthew Doyle.*
What would your perfect date be? *Sit out under the stars and see where things go.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *My roommate's memories.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Streaking with an open container.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Pumpkin spice chai latte—I would never have to go home alone again.*

Blaire Frett '16

PHOTO COURTESY OF BLAIRE FRETT '16

Hometown: *Evanston, IL*
Home on Campus: *Farmhouse C.*
Major: *Biology.*
Turn On? *Rolled up pants, a cool little dance.*
Turn Off? *Chapped lips and lukewarm milk.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Farmhouse 'cus I'm a lil disheveled rn.*
Lights on or lights off? *Candles + headlamps.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Death Cab + Flo Rida.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"Oscar Mayer has a way with b-o-l-o-g-n-a!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"*
What TV genre best describes you? *A telenovela in a telenovela.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *Hey, u up? ;)*
What's your type? *Chapped lips and lukewarm milk.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *FUN socks, my green vest and my lavender ylang ylang lotion.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *The pub, is that a social space? Popcorn and chill hangs amirite?*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *Under my bed.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *I'm thinking Conspiracy theorists.*
What's your patronus and why? ¯_(ツ)_/¯ *now this is self-explanatory.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Using the shower in the chem lab…it's a matter of convenience.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Sour gummies, head scratches and texting ~with emphasis~.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *When people fart on my bed and/or pillow.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Nora Silva.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *Without a doubt, Andrea Townsend.*
What would your perfect date be? *Walk on a beach, nice sunset and a romantic dinner for three.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *Tools for swabbing poop.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Asking about my future!!!!!!!! And indifference.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *NACHOS: cheesy, crispy, corny and everybody likes 'em.*

Searching for gold in the leprechaun closet

by Molly Geisinger '19
Staff Writer

With every special event comes various forms of paraphernalia designed to entice the curious college student seeking free merchandise. Once these events come to a close, however, there is an equally special location for those extra Class and Charter Day t-shirts and Chili Cookoff aprons. Tucked away is a time capsule of commemorative stock that has endearingly come to be known as the Leprechaun Closet.

Squeeze through a 4x4 foot door to discover Hamilton's home for spurned mascots and unclaimed aprons.

How exactly did this hidden storage space get its name? Perhaps it is due to its secretive entrance, hidden behind nondescript doors, suggests Acting Director for Student Engagement & Leadership Noelle Niznik.

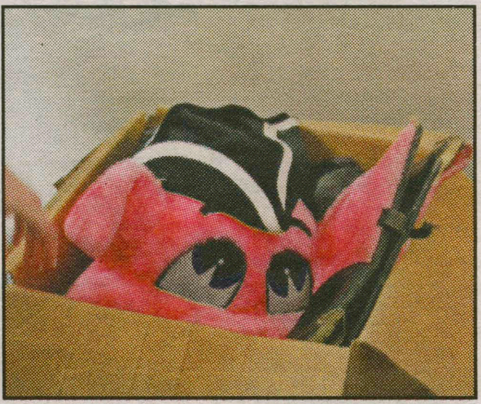
The entrance to the concealed Leprechaun Closet is a small 4x4 foot opening, inconspicuously marked as a mechanical room, on the third floor of the Sadove Student Center. At first, the crawl space does not appear to be anything more than a neatly organized storage room, but upon close investigation its contents can resurface memories for students from two to 20 years ago.

There are seasonal holiday decorations, ranging from a neatly-wrapped artificial Christmas tree to a Chinese Lunar New Year Dragon. Following with the theme of celebration are various colors of neon powders used to celebrate Holi, the Indian festival of colors that was first celebrated at Hamilton College three years ago.

It is not easy to pass through the room without an inquisitive glimpse at a furry mascot. The College's unofficial school spirit representative from the early 2000s, Al Ham, a giant bubblegum-pink pig complete with a tri-corner hat, has rested here since the College instituted its new mascot Alex last year.

Aside from becoming a repository for goods from recent events, the Leprechaun Closet also serves as a time capsule of Hamilton College history. Though summer interns routinely clean out the attic and take inventory after the school year terminates, yearbooks from as far back as 1974 occupy a portion of the concrete floor space. Also located here are some portraits of incoming freshmen taken during their summer orientation in 1990. Other memorabilia include copies of the The Duel Observer with the title 'Dear Joan,' The Continental from 2010, and a few Red Weather magazines from 1987.

So what exactly makes this space so unknown? Perhaps it is the closet's relative inaccessibility to the general public. Just outside the Leprechaun Closet are lockers for student groups and organizations. However, those groups who could not secure a locker need not be disappointed because they are given a portion of floor space in the closet. Additionally, students can only access the storage room when someone in the Student Activities Office is open to unlock the door, making the closet's hours selective.



PHOTOS BY BEN MITTMAN '18

Al Ham, Hamilton's one-time unofficial mascot relegated to the closet when the College adopted "Alex" in 2014.

Another reason for its alluring quality may be its location and architecture. The Leprechaun Closet was originally intended to become a rehearsal space for acapella groups during the Sadove Student Center renovation six years ago. The reconstruction marked one of the College's five most significant projects in the past decade. Initially, Bristol Center, the Student Activities Office's former location, was designed in 1964 to become the main center of campus. While plans for campus included northern expansion, the project for Kirkland developed and redirected expansion to the south and west.

The book store, radio station and Student Activities Office now operate out of the Sadove Student Center at Emerson Hall. After restoring the third floor of Sadove to become a recreational room for student organizations, this particular crawl space was designed with acoustics and camaraderie in mind. However, after architects began construction, this proposal could no longer be executed as the space in the attic was too small and too difficult to be accessed.

While Sadove Student Center and all of its unknown apertures have become one of the five most important buildings along Martin's Way, only a few of the hundreds of students, faculty and visitors who pass by the Student Center each day know of this hidden spot.

In addition to the more well-known College archives in the basement of the library, there is another time capsule of history and social activity on the Hill, a gem that only those who are lucky might get a chance to explore.

Did you catch the Oscars on Sunday? Or did you just see the internet explode after Leo finally won his first Academy Award? If you love movies and the Academy Awards show, then this is the crossword puzzle for you. We can't promise you an award for finishing it, but the pride you'll feel upon completing the puzzle will be Oscar worthy.

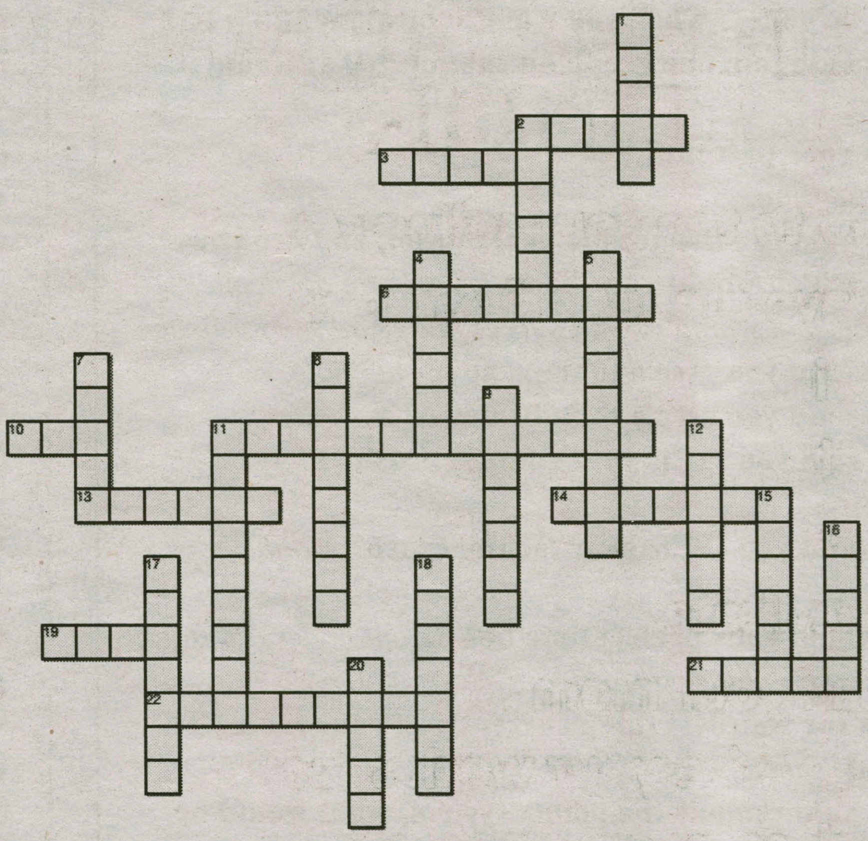
by Ian Antonoff '16 and Amelia Heller '16
Features Contributors

Across:
2. The Oscar statuette approximate weight (in pounds)
3. Number of movies nominated for 2015 best picture
6. Best Actor 2016
10. Number of actors to be awarded posthumously
11. Youngest ever Oscar recipient (1934)
13. Best Actress 2016
14. Comedian who has hosted the Oscars a record 18 times
19. John ____: Director nominated for most directing Awards
21. Tom _____: One of two men to win Best Actor in consecutive years
22. First openly gay Oscar winner for Original Song in Lion King

Down:
1. First openly gay host of the Oscars (2007)
2. Most nominated actress (16 nominations)
4. Walt ______: Male with most Academy Award Wins (22)
5. Most nominated actor (12 nominations, 3 wins)
7. Foo Fighters frontman David _____ who performed the In Memoriam, singing "Blackbird"
8. *Mad Max* _________: Winner of a record 6 2016 Academy Awards
9. Katharine _______: Person with most acting awards
11. 2016 Best Picture Award Winner
12. First female to host the show
15. Most ever oscars awarded to one movie
16. Only silent film to win best picture (1927)
17. Julie ________: Winner of Best Actress Award for her 1954 debut performance, *Mary Poppins*
18. 1997 film and record winner of 11 Academy Awards
20. Name of the Hollywood theater that the Oscars were held in

Oscars

Complete the crossword below



Last Week's Answers:
Across: 4. talents 5. five 8. AmyAdams 10. frog 12. Mayan 19. election 21. Disneyland 22. drinking 23. Egyptians 25. gloves 26. Caesar 28. Third 29. Romans 32. Pisces
Down: 1. Italy 2. Penzance 3. Salem 5. four 6. Playboy 7. propose 9. Scotland 11. Greece 13. Anthony 14. William 15. Jarule 16. Saturday 17. Olympics 18. Sosigenes 20. leaplings 24. Keogh 27. Russia 30. month

This week, five years ago: The Commons Dilemma

by Anderson Tuggle '14
Opinion Writer

I would like to take a moment to highlight a malaise that plagues our campus around the hours of noon and six: the complete and utter lack of seating in the Soper Commons Dining Hall.

Finding a seat has not been this hard since opening day of *Harry Potter: Deathly Hollows Part I* in November. Some days I feel like I spend more time finding and securing a table than I do actually eating my food. Just last week, my friend and I had our meal on the floor of the balcony, eating in conditions at which Oliver Twist would have cringed. Moreover, I know I am not the only one to go through this.

Every day, we witness legions of students on the "walk of shame," desperately searching for an open table, plate in tow. Oftentimes, however, no oasis emerges for the weary travelers, forcing them to take multiple trips up and down the Commons catwalk.

When a table does open up, it turns into a gladiatorial free-for-all, all sense of decency lost as the one goal of sitting down for a meal trumps all else. Seating at mealtime should be a right, not a privilege.

Our other main dining establishments, McEwen and the Howard Diner, do not have this problem to the same extent as Commons, even though so many of us flock to their food with just as much vigor. Why the discrepancy? Well, a large part of the problem concerns table size. Allow me to explain my hypothesis: At McEwen, we utilize a great number of four to five chair tables, letting small groups of people sit together, or making large groups by putting together two tables. Either way, a relatively high seating efficiency is achieved.

Commons, on the other hand, has only large tables, leading to awkwardly placed surplus chairs that nobody uses. Four or five people will use a ten-person table, preventing another, larger group from using that space more efficiently. In the end, the tables are considered full, even though chairs remain open, and a select number of us are left shamed and seat-less.

All too often, sports coaches and captains will claim a group of several already large tables in the center of Commons to seat their entire team at the busiest meal times of the day. Any group that wants to sit at a table larger than the two rectangular tables together is taking potential seats away from a lot of people. While it makes sense that the teams bond through eating meals together, perhaps such large groups should work to avoid Commons' rush-hour traffic.

Another major spatial problem in Commons is when language groups and other clubs reserve an entire upstairs balcony for a small group of people. While language tables are a great idea for language practice, rarely are all of the tables filled. Often, this leaves an empty table with a "reserved" sign, which no one can utilize. Just like sports teams and other groups that reserve large spots in the main area, language departments and other groups should consider reserving balcony spaces during less crowded times of the day or reserve fewer tables, based on past popularity.

HAMILTON.EDU
A typically busy day in Commons, it is impossible to find a seat.

The good news, however, is that we could alleviate Commons' overflow problem by using more appropriate kinds of tables. Easier said than done, I know, but McEwen stands as a fine example for what efficient seating in a dining hall looks like. If the College ditched the large tables in Commons in favor of a greater number of smaller tables, harmony could be restored. Adding smaller tables while still keeping some large group tables is one way to compromise. This way, those in a rush at mealtimes can find a seat quickly without dodging large groups.

Admittedly, this problem is most severe when the outdoor tables are frozen over. Once the weather heats up and we are able to move our meals outside, this overflow problem solves itself. Given that we live in the snowiest area south of Siberia though, this seemingly great solution does not answer the question of what to do during the arctic months.

Perhaps even worse than the crowds in Commons is the mess that they leave behind. Entire tables are left out of order when they are left covered in abandoned plates, utensils, cups and even denied food. It is not the job of the Commons staff to throw away our trash. Especially during busy meal times, it may seem easier to avoid the task of cleaning up after ourselves; however, this laziness leads to a disgusting mess and a shortage of space for the next group of hungry Hamiltonians.

True, Commons is known for its ability to bring our often divided community together in a "common" space. I say we forgo a little bit of Commons tradition in exchange for a lot more overall mealtime happiness. After all, a meal without a table is like a bird without a beak: it just does not make sense.

SPEC'S TOP TEN FAVORITE MIDTERM COPING METHODS

1. Go to the counseling center
2. Have dinner off-campus
3. Drink
4. Attend Chair Massage Tuesday
5. Go to Fitness Club
6. Meditate
7. Call your mom
8. Organize your work space
9. Ask someone for a hug
10. Read the *Spec*

FEATURES INVESTIGATES:

Tracing a Hamilton tradition

Continental

If you've seen this Lincoln Continental logo hanging on someone's door, e-mail us at *spec@hamilton.edu*.

Original play depicts anxiety on stage

by Andres Aguilar '19
A&E Contributor

This past Saturday, Feb. 27, Michael Breslin '13 and Alison McLaughlin '11 performed their original piece, *kiss me just once more*, which provides an interesting approach to theatre. The play, which premiered off-off-Broadway in September, has been in the works for over a year and has undergone several revisions in that time. Breslin told *The Spectator* that throughout the process and production of the piece, changes have been made to enhance the performance. Interestingly, the script was constructed from pieces by various playwrights and authors, including Chekhov and Shakespeare. The originality of the production lies in the delicacy of its composition of other famously recognized works.

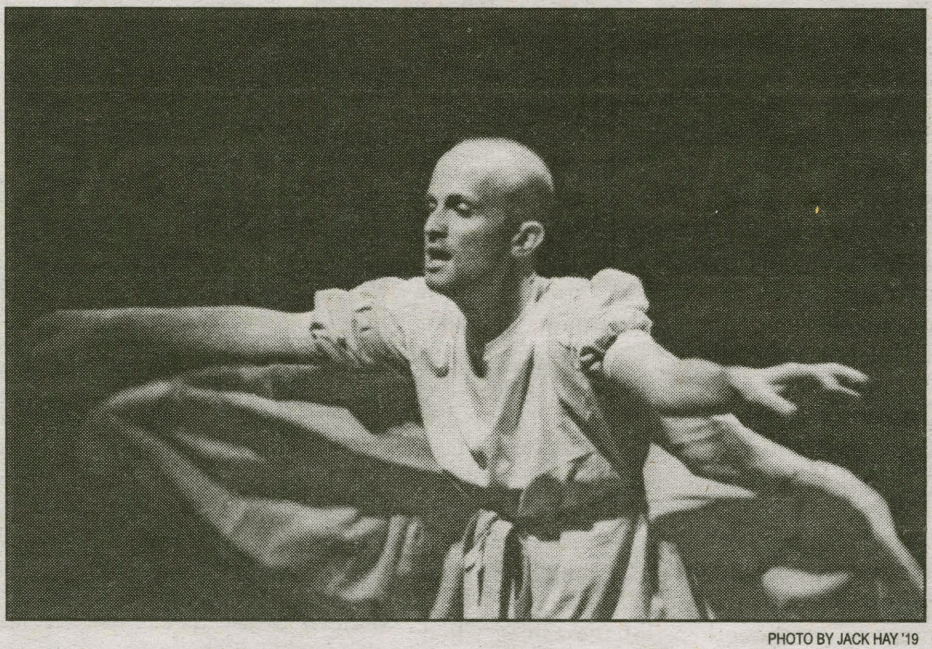


PHOTO BY JACK HAY '19

Michael Breslin '13 performed as both the male protagonist and his haunting mother.

Portraying a mother and son's relationship, Breslin, who plays both the queer male protagonist and his mother, takes the audience on a journey through the realities and struggles of the mentally ill, with live technical support and a minor speaking part from McLaughlin. The story opens with the male protagonist's desire for a good night kiss from his mother. This soon runs deeply into a sexual fetish. The son, suffering from an anxiety disorder, plots to somehow get his mother to give him his good night kiss without his father's discovery. The father, voiced by Breslin, functions as the masculine voice of the play as he condemns his son's desire for the kiss. The audience does not realize the son's anxiety disorder until a chaotic scene in which the boy erupts, frantically tying a rope to each side of the stage. The erotic tugging and musical amplification allowsthe audience to understand the anxiety attack as the son struggles to receive his kiss. Soon after his attack, the falling action and conclusion rely on the acceptance and understanding of his disorder by both parents.

The production used limited lighting, music and props to accomplish its mesmerizing aesthetic. A spotlight was projected on an assembly of chairs, wrapped in ropes, creating a sense of isolated space, which added to the anxiety of the play. The artists also incorporated recorded music and synchronized dancing throughout the play, giving the piece a sense of fluidity and performance artistry. Every movement was clear and added to the overall tension the character faces in his attempt to attain his kiss. Furthermore, every prop used in the production was pre-set on stage at the start of the show, and was utilized at various points to unravel the story.

Step Afrika! thrills audience in night of interactive fun

by Kyandreia Jones '19
Staff Writer

This past Saturday, Step Afrika! performers wowed audience members with breathtaking visual effects, memorable personalities and incredible choreography.

The event, held in Wellin Hall, introduced stepping to Hamilton students, faculty and Clinton residents. Step Afrika describes stepping as "based on a long and rich tradition in African-based communities that use movement, words and sounds to communicate allegiance to a group."

The performance, both entertaining and didactic, kept members of the audience mesmerized. Incorporating skits, stories and mayhem into step routines, onlookers could not help but cling to every chant, beat and song. After showcasing their talents, three of the men and women of Step Afrika! engaged in a stepping battle. Artis J. Olds hosted the battle between the men (Joe Murchison, Jordan Spry and Reginald Barrington) and women (Brittny Smith, Danielle Dubois Glover and Mfoniso Akpan.)

Olds asked the audience to choose winners through claps, hollers and cheers. With sass, splits and beautiful smiles, the women won the first round. However, the men redeemed themselves during the second round and out-stepped their female counterparts by adding flips, splits and charisma to their steps.

Audience participation was integral to Step Afrika!'s performance. The Step Afrika! crew encouraged audience members to take part in the fun by whistling, stomping or clapping along. At one point, select members of the audience were given the opportunity to learn simple steps on stage with the performers. Olds lead these 10 lucky spectators as they attempted to execute the routine. The most amazing part of seeing familiar faces on stage was the fact that towards the end of the lesson, Olds stepped aside. From stage right, Olds called out commands to the volunteers. Not only did these brave souls go on stage and "try something new" (as Olds aptly phrased it), they performed the routine to the best of their abilities.

This element of participation left the crowd constantly entertained. Rather than become passive observers, audience members were teased and included in every skit, story and routine, becoming as much as part of the experience as the performers themselves.

At one point, Murchison introduced a game, consisting of his yelling "okay" and the crowd responding "alright." To amp up the process, he requested the audience say "okay" each time Murchison said "alright." To the audience's credit, they were with Murchison up until he complicated the game.

When he asked, "Alright Alright?" they cheered, "Okay Okay!" But yet, as he continued, he chanted "Alright Okay Alright?" prompting the audience to lose their place. As the chorus of mumbled and uncertain responses riddled the crowd, Murchison smiled.

Christopher Brient also joked with the audience while performing a solo. Dressed in a tuxedo, Brient bowed before beginning his self-choreographed routine. Remaining silent, he stretched his arm out to sections of the audience one by one. Each time he stretched his arm out, he bent down with his hand still out. His hand signaled when to clap; when he lowered his outstretched hand, the applause died down. When he lifted his outstretched hand, Wellin erupted in applause.

Realizing the power in his gestures, Brient began to lift and lower his hand with different speeds. The chorus of cheers reflected the crowd's confusion as he played this game with us. Smiling widely, Brient did this for a while before finally raising both his arms above his head. At this gesture, every section began to holler and applaud.

Although he only spoke when he began to step again, Brient demonstrated his huge personality through his vivid facial expressions. He was able to communicate without words, and while audience members struggled with his unspoken commands, it was never due to a lack of understanding but rather the difficulty of trying to keep up with him.

The relationship performers established with the crowd put the show over the top. The visual effects, like lighting and fog, gave the audience the sense that they were being introduced to a new level of greatness. As the steppers brought out a drum set and props and underwent several costume changes, the 90 minutes seemed to come and go fast. Attendees left Wellin still in high spirits and teeming with energy. Step Afrika! showcased phenomenal performers with breathtaking talents, educational stories and personalities that shine on stage.

Step Afrika! gave the crowd the rare opportunity of stepping into a world of fun,education and music. Most importantly, Step Afrika! taught audience members about a key component of African American life, culture and history.

WHCL 88.7FM

Show Profile:

Mind The Gap

Sundays at 10 a.m.

with...

Phoebe Keyes'19,

Anika Huq '19 and Melissa Woodward '19 and Marian Eckermann '16

A cool show featuring three cool people. Yay. We play fab music.

"Animal - Miike Snow

"Snow Warned You" - Good Morning

"Wait for Me" - Motopony

"Shell Suite" - Chad

Josefine Báez's writing reminds listeners to embrace joy

by Kyandreia Jones '19
Staff Writer

The scene is set: the gentle hum of conversation, the aroma of Hispanic food and a red floor upon which she stands. She dances to the music which plays from a video playing behind her. As she waits for the event to start, more and more students pour into the Red Pit. Wondering if the woman before us matches the face on the poster, we stare. We catch her eye and she graces us with a smile. Yes, we realize. This is Josefina Báez.

Last Monday, Feb. 22, Dominican writer, dancer and actress Josefina Báez visited Hamilton. Students and faculty members alike joined the artist for a reading and conversation. Alternating between Spanish and English, Báez engulfed her audience in her world. Báez wove the two languages with such an ease that I was swept into her stories. For non-Spanish speakers like myself, the change could have created more confusion than clarity. However, her facial expressions, tone and body language alone were enough to effectively communicate her thoughts.

I did not always need to understand her words to garner humor from the curl of her lips and sincerity from her scrunched-up countenance. Báez discussed being Dominican-American as well as the topics of assimilation and migration. She also read from her novels *Levente no. Yolayorkdominicanyork, As Is É* and *Comrade, Bliss ain't playing.*

In addition to Báez's reading, musician Guillermo Cárdenas played music at the event. Cárdenas's various instruments and Báez's words complimented each other. At times, I forgot about the steady beat thrumming in the background of Báez's stories. The music seemed like a part of her voice.

Although the music mostly painted a subtle picture in the background there was one glaring reminder of the presented music—Báez's dancing. The music, however, provided a picture of harmony, melody and the beautiful noise that exists in the backdrop of everyday life.

Furthermore, the nature of the two performers showed a symbiotic relationship contingent on admiration. There was mutual respect between Cárdenas and Báez. Cárdenas played his instruments with a focused and composed face. Meanwhile, Báez stood beside him, patient and smiling.

Báez smiled often throughout the evening. It's what I remember most. She explained her propensity to smile during a conversation following the reading which allowed members of the audience to ask Báez questions. One of the audience members, Cimone Jordan '19 asked, "What's your inspiration?"

"I don't have an inspiration," Báez replied. "I work from rigor based on joy. Inspiration—you can have it or not. I cannot count on that. Being alive, beauty, laughter ... no inspiration and no writer's block."

Báez described joy as a crucial part of her process. After mentioning deaths in the family, Báez admitted, "I learned how to find, in the saddest times of my life, that at the same time I was grateful." Eudocia Montiel '16 asked how Báez became the successful person she is today and wondered how people have received her work as a Dominican-American.

"People want something different," Báez responded. "The market is one thing. But the audience is another." Despite publishers requesting she change her voice, Báez knew that she had to "do the work." Through her hardships both in life and in the industry, Báez mentioned, "I'm learning to be a better person and to craft." Báez remained true to herself, her passion and trusted "the light of [her] audience." Now, her work, taught in England, has travelled.

Thus, Báez reiterated that her work thrives due to gratitude which comes from joy. Báez closed by explaining, "The need to know myself." Báez inspires herself to keep writing, "in a way that does not hurt anyone."

Throughout the discussion, Báez showcased her talent as a writer, speaker and dancer. Most importantly, she demonstrated the value of being a great person. All the smiles, jokes and stories strengthened her presence and voice just as Cárdenas's music did. The audience remembers the music of Josefina Báez because her personality and the smile that danced across her face allowed it to shine.

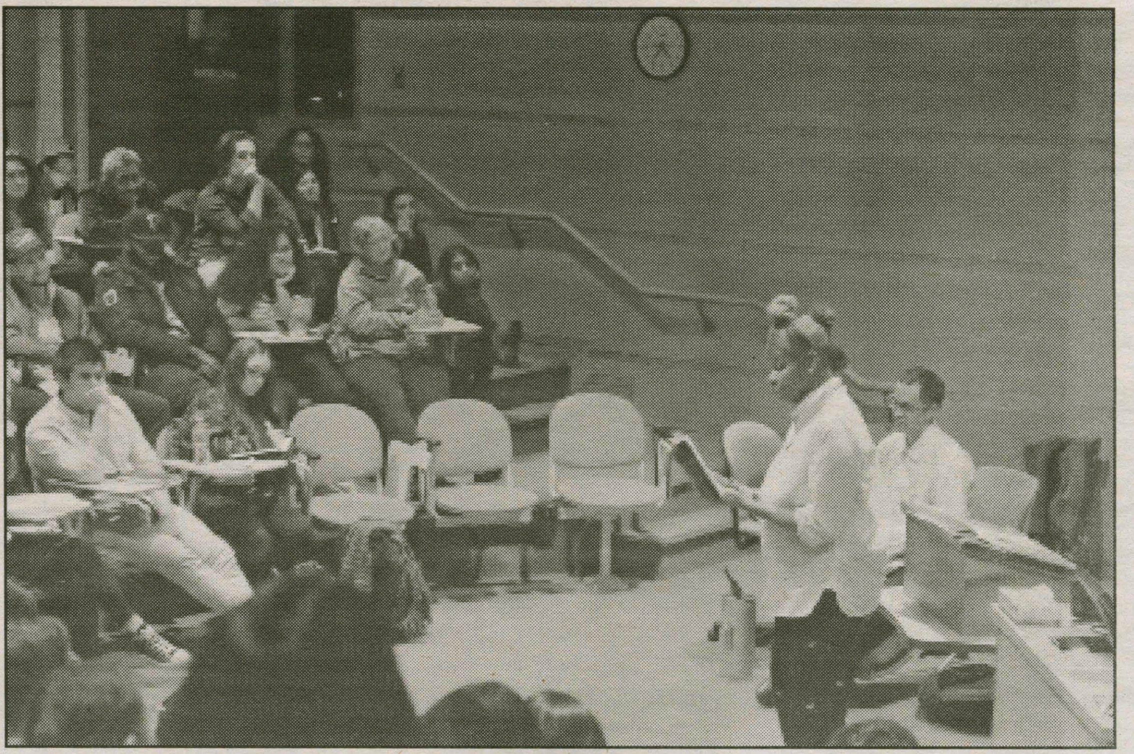


PHOTO BY SINDY CHEN '19

Báez conducted a reading, then discussed her writing process with a captivated audience in the Red Pit last Tuesday.

88th Academy Awards delivers predictable but entertaining night

by Matt Burner '17
Staff Writer

Another Academy Awards ceremony is in the books. Hosted by Chris Rock, this year's show provided a few laughs but, as usual, also plenty of stuffiness. The Oscars have always struggled with the mantle of being the most prestigious awards show, which often leads to a relatively more conservative and predictable show than alternatives like the Golden Globes. Here are several thoughts I had regarding this past Sunday's show:

Delivery of Important Messages: In the lead up to this year's Oscars, there were two talking points that dwarfed all others. Would Leonardo DiCaprio finally win an Oscar this year? And would Chris Rock disparage the Hollywood establishment for its lack of minority nominees? The answer to both questions was a resounding yes. After five earlier nominations, DiCaprio finally won for his starring role in *The Revenant.* However, despite reveling in his long-awaited victory, DiCaprio spent most of his acceptance speech spreading awareness about global warming. Although he isn't the first award winner to use their speech to deliver a message, DiCaprio's speech caught traction because of the attention aimed at his long-awaited win.

While DiCaprio's message was fairly mild in its delivery, host Chris Rock's monologue was filled with biting humor. Addressing the lack of black nominees, Rock cleverly blasted Hollywood over perceived institutional racism and a lack of opportunities for minority actors. He also proposed the interesting idea of categories dedicated solely to non-white actors and actresses, which would surely alter what studios consider when making films. One can only hope that Hollywood pay attention to this year's controversy and does not make the same errors again.

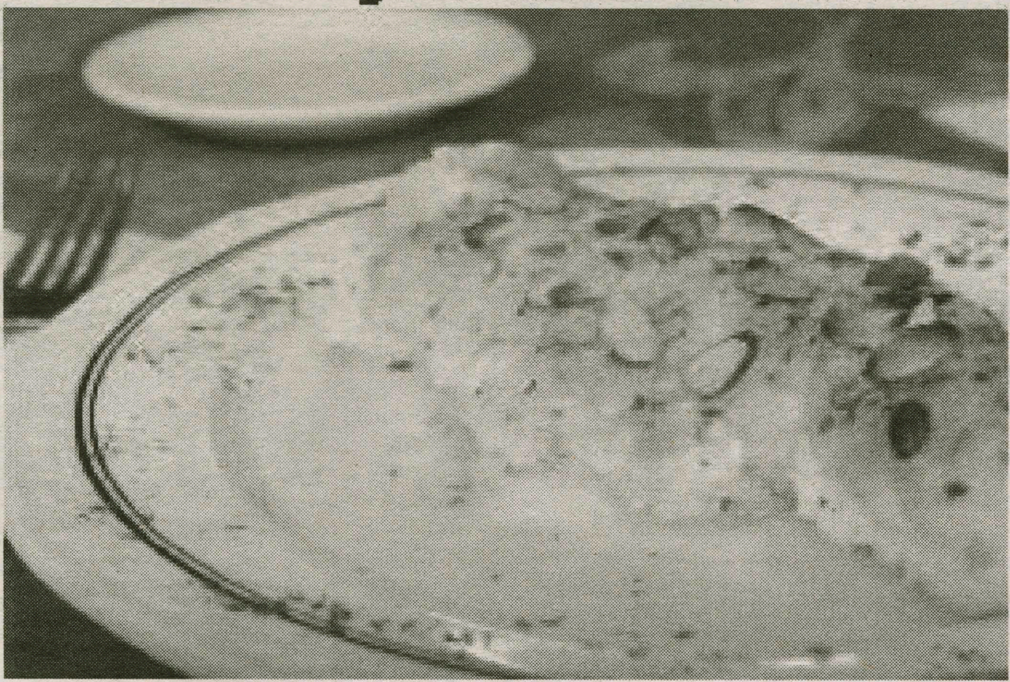
***Mad Max*'s Big Night:** The film with the most Academy Awards at the end of the night came as a bit of a surprise to many. *Mad Max: Fury Road,* starring Tom Hardy and Charlize Theron, won a total of six Oscars Sunday night. While all of these awards came in technical categories such as Film Editing and Costume Design, the amount of awards won certainly speaks to the quality of the film. *Mad Max* is one of the best action movies of the 21st century, with thrilling action sequences and a gripping story. It is currently available to view on HBO Go and is definitely worth viewing.

***Spotlight* Wins Best Picture:** Despite the Best Picture category being considered a toss-up between *The Revenant, The Big Short* and *Spotlight,* many were surprised when *Spotlight* won. *Spotlight* possessed a great script and solid performances, and is certainly an all-around solid film. Most viewers, however, predicted that *The Revenant* would ultimately win out. *Spotlight* likely won, however, due to its strong script and topical story of abuse cover-up within the Catholic Church.

Overall, the night was a success and the show was entertaining, if predictable. Now, it's time to look forward to the new films of 2016, and hope not only that the Academy learns from its mistakes and rewards the efforts of people of color in film, but that Hollywood branches into highlighting more diversity on the silver screen.

Michael T's Restaurant

Famous for our haddock



Try our chicken riggies!

AAA Approved

8390 Seneca Turnpike
New Hartford

315-724-4882
michaeltsrest.com

10% DISCOUNT WITH VALID STUDENT I.D.

ONEIDA NATION ENTERPRISES, LLC

EXPLORE A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES

Turning Stone RESORT | CASINO

As one of Central New York's largest employers, Oneida Nation Enterprises, offers endless opportunities to begin, develop and advance your career!

NOW HIRING

Hotel	Retail
Food & Beverage	Slots
Culinary	Bingo
Golf	Finance
Club & Nightlife	Supply Chain
Spa	Information Technology
Security	Facilities & Maintenance
Blackjack Dealers	Marinas
Poker Dealers	SavOn Convenience Stores

Full Time and Part Time positions are available on various shifts.

Become part of a growing, exciting organization that offers stability, flexibility, competitive wages, outstanding benefits, paid time off, 401K retirement plan and many additional employee discounts and amenities.

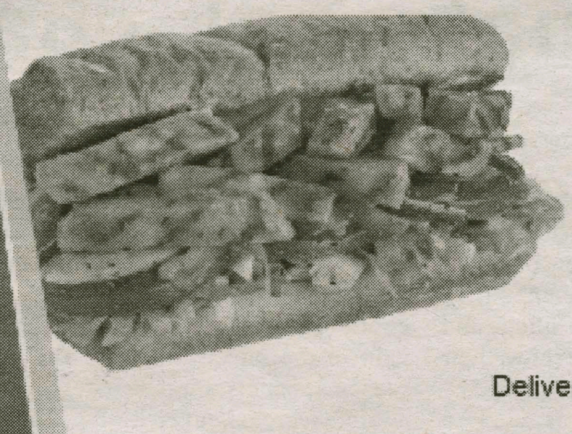
Learn more and apply online at **www.turningstone.com/careers**

New Hartford Taxi

Airport Pickup and Drop Off Service

Group Rates Available

315-507-2171



SUBWAY

32 College St Clinton

(315) 859-1000

Now offering delivery to you!

Visit us at GrubHub.com

or call us at (315) 859-1000 to place your order.

Delivery hours 5 pm - 10 pm Monday - Saturday

5 pm - 9 pm Sundays

M. lacrosse squad simplifies offensive playbook, focuses on fundamentals

from M. lacrosse, page 16

bellies to get back to that position." This season, Coach Barnard explained, the team's goal is to "be playing at the end of the year."

To achieve this goal, the Continentals will emphasize perfecting fundamentals. The coaching staff has simplified the offensive playbook, eliminating some of the more complex plays that were rarely put into action last season. In practice over the last two weeks, the men's team has been focusing on doing the little things better, particularly riding. Riding refers to the defensive team's effort to slow down or halt the offensive team's attempt to move the ball from their defensive zone, following a turnover or a missed shot, upfield to their offensive zone. Garrett and Sweet both believe that riding was a weakness of last year's squad and is something the team needs to improve on.

On Feb. 27, the Continentals shook off some rust in a home scrimmage against SUNY-Oswego. Sweet tallied three goals as Hamilton won 9 to 5. According to Sweet, the scrimmage was a great opportunity to "figure out what the team's weaknesses are and how to improve them before the season starts." Sweet believes that, besides having some trouble finishing, the Continentals played well.

There will be no rest for the men's lacrosse team between now and Mar. 5, when the team will travel to Maine to open its season against NESCAC opponent Colby College. Both new players and returning players seeking a starting spot on the roster will need to "carve out their own path and take on the responsibility to prove themselves through hard work," Coach Barnard said.

In the upcoming weeks, the Continentals will face six teams that are currently ranked in the top-20 NCAA Division III lacrosse teams in Inside Lacrosse's preseason poll. Coach Barnard acknowledges that the schedule is daunting, featuring multiple teams that were in the Division III playoff last year and are slated to be contenders for the title this year, but he is "excited to play all of them."

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE DOHERTY

Ricciuti '16 will play a key role in the Continentals' midfield this year.

These early games, according to Sweet, are very important. "They're the ones that always set the tone for the entire season. They make the difference between a good season and a great season, since the season is so short."

The current squad is young, but full of potential. Roughly half of last year's starting lineup will be replaced. New players will have to step up into supporting roles. According to Sweet and Garrett, Hamilton fans should be on the lookout for first-years Clay McCollum, Andrej Bogdanovics and midfielder Jarett Greben.

Coach Barnard expects this upcoming season to be a breakout year for returning defenseman Matt Creeden '16 and attackman J.D. Brachman '17, both of whom should step into starting roles this year. The goaltender position has yet to be decided, and Coach Barnard anticipates a battle between Noah Weissman '18 and John Schisler '17 for the starting spot.

Coach Barnard also expects returning starters to make important contributions. Sweet will pick up where John Zimmerman '15 left off, assuming a similar playmaking role, distributing the ball to players like Brachman who has demonstrated a great finishing ability. Garrett will continue to captain the defensive end, and Trip Connors '17, Pat Donahoe '16 and Joe Ricciuti '16 will pace the midfield. Coach Barnard is excited to see how Eric Zurmuehle '18 progresses as the team's faceoff specialist, especially following up his 68 percent winning percentage against Tufts in the quarterfinal last season.

"Every game in NESCAC is like a playoff game," said Coach Barnard. The NESCAC season is very short, and teams have a limited number of chances to prove their worthiness for the postseason. Barnard acknowledges the difficulty of predicting this early in the season how the team will fare from now until Apr. 26, when the regular season ends, especially considering the unpredictability of the NESCAC. "We're all just really excited about the potential this team has," Sweet says.

Hamilton, according to Barnard, "can win any given game." The coach believes the team's success, or lack thereof, will ultimately come down to whether or not they can "execute, ...keep a short memory and fight for one more game, one more practice, to get to the end of the year."

W. lacrosse pursues consecutive appearances at national championship

by Julia Ferguson '16
Sports Contributor

Hamilton's varsity women's lacrosse team looks forward to a season of strong competition and hard-earned success in spring 2016. Since joining the NESCAC, Hamilton has shown a commanding presence in one of the most competitive collegiate conferences in the sport. The spirited competition succeeds from season to season and 2016 is no exception. Hamilton is ready to meet and exceed expectations on the field. The team is confident that their pre-season preparation will start them off with momentum and carry them through to another appearance in the NCAA championships.

One key element of the team's strength is their unity.

Players see each other first and foremost as teammates, not as class years. The strength of the team lies with both newcomers and returners. Team captain Margaret Gabriel '16 says that this year's team has impressive depth. "Every class year impacts play on the field. It's not only juniors and seniors who will show up on the stats sheet," Gabriel said of the 30-person roster. With a talented recruiting class and experienced players, the depth of the team will serve to challenge even the toughest NESCAC competitors. Gabriel hopes that their most competitive matchups against Trinity College and Middlebury College will show their preparedness and talent.

In the NESCAC, it is vital to meet the first opponent with composure. Each team poses a new challenge and the season's schedule doesn't allow time for tepid play. Hannah Lease '18, Jackie Cuddy '18, and Nicole Lyons '18 all agree that off-season work is evident in their first weeks of in-season practice. Lyons sees "a prepared and promising season" ahead of them. The coaching staff agrees that this team is more prepared at the start of this season than in years past. Cuddy agrees and adds, "the team is much better positioned than we were last year." Lease notes that the team's success also comes from the fun they have playing together. Team chemistry shows on the field, and in a conference where games are decided by single points, cohesion will prove vital.

After an impressive 2015 season, Hamilton enters its spring season ranked 12th in the Division III Preseason Coaches' Poll. Hamilton finished fourth in the 2015 NESCAC after a 7-3 record of conference games and hopes to further gain in the ranks this year. The 2016 season opener is a home contest against conference challenger, Colby College, on March 5th. Hamilton will also host conference games against Amherst College, Connecticut College and Trinity College. They will spend spring break in Bradenton, Florida, where the team will face Bowdoin College and Florida Southern College. Hamilton hopes to make another NCAA Championship appearance and enjoy the play that will lead them there.

PHOTO BY ZACH BATSON '16

Taylor Ryan '17 scored 15 goals for the Continentals last season.

Buitenhuis first Hamilton goalie to earn All-NESCAC honor as season ends

from Hockey, page 16

the final 27:21 of play. Hamilton also came out victorious in 48 face offs compared to Middlebury's 32. Middlebury's win, therefore, was clearly not a result of greater skill but Hamilton's few moments of deficiency.

"Our breakdowns were really the only thing Middlebury had going for them," Court explained.

Head coach Robert Haberbusch noted the team's potential to win and strength of play throughout regulation. "It was a disappointing finish, but that's hockey. We played well and generated a lot of chances but ran into a hot goalie. Plenty of teams have left the rink saying that about us this season."

Hamilton did not see the only shocking upset: sixth-seeded Amherst dominated third-seeded Bowdoin 8-5, and for the second straight season the eighth-seeded Tufts defeated the NESCAC regular season champion 2-1 (this year, it was Williams). At the end of the weekend, only one of the four host teams expected to move onto the semifinals actually won.

The Panthers will face sixth-seeded Amherst in the semifinal round this Saturday at second-seeded Trinity. The hosts face eighth-seeded Tufts in the other semifinal game.

Despite its gut-wrenching conclusion, 2015-16 men's hockey team "made some very significant strides" and created a "strong foundation," according to Haberbusch. Its ongoing list of accomplishments and landmarks undoubtedly marks it as one for Hamilton College Athletics' history books. As of earlier this week, the Continentals came out on top of NESCAC rankings, tying a school record Murden and Buitenhuis were selected as first-team players for the all-conference team and defenseman Conor Lamberti '17 was a second-team pick. No other team had more players receive all-conference recognition this year.

Murden first appeared on the distinguished team last winter, when he earned second-team distinction. He finished the season with team and conference-best totals of 17 goals and 33 points. The forward, who will enter his senior season with 89 points in 72 games, currently ranks 12th nationally in goals per game and 15th in points per game.

Buitenhuis' selection marks a series of firsts for Hamilton. He is the first goaltender from the College to earn a spot on the NESCAC all-conference team, as well as the first Continental to received recognition from D3hockey.com's Team of the Week honor (Dec. 15 squad). The goaltender set single-season school records with his 1.74 goals-against average and .943 save percentage while posting a record of 12-7-4 with three shutouts and ranks sixth in Division III in save percentage and ninth in goals-against average. In just 28 career games, Buitenhuis has earned a 1.75 goals-against average and stopped 94.3 percent of the shots he's faced.

Lamberti currently ranks as Hamilton's fifth-leading scorer, his three goals—all of which were from power plays—leading the team's blue liners. Under his leadership, the Hamilton defense rose to sixth in Division III standings with 1.92 goals allowed per game. Over three years, he has accumulated 26 points.

Together, the squad produced a 12-game winning streak, the longest record in 64 years; their first national ranking, at 15; and a fourth-place regular season finish, their best finish since 2011. And, interestingly enough, the team will lose only three starting players (alternative captain Lovejoy, captain Kenny Matheson '16, Scott Vasquez '16) after this season. That said, one can only expect to see a more refined, mature and determined team in the season to come.

Alternate captain Bennett Hambrook '17, said, "As a group we understand winning has a learning curve. There are choices we are met with each day, as individuals and as a team, that determine our success, we are learning how to constantly make the best choices that lead to winning."

"While we had an outstanding season that we are all very proud of we are not satisfied," Court added. "We must continue to build next year and learn from our quarterfinal loss that it comes down to execution and doing the little things right. In such a tight league with a one game knockout there's no room for mistakes."

The best is yet to come for the men's hockey team. As Hambrook said, "We will enter next year hungry for greater success and with higher expectations."

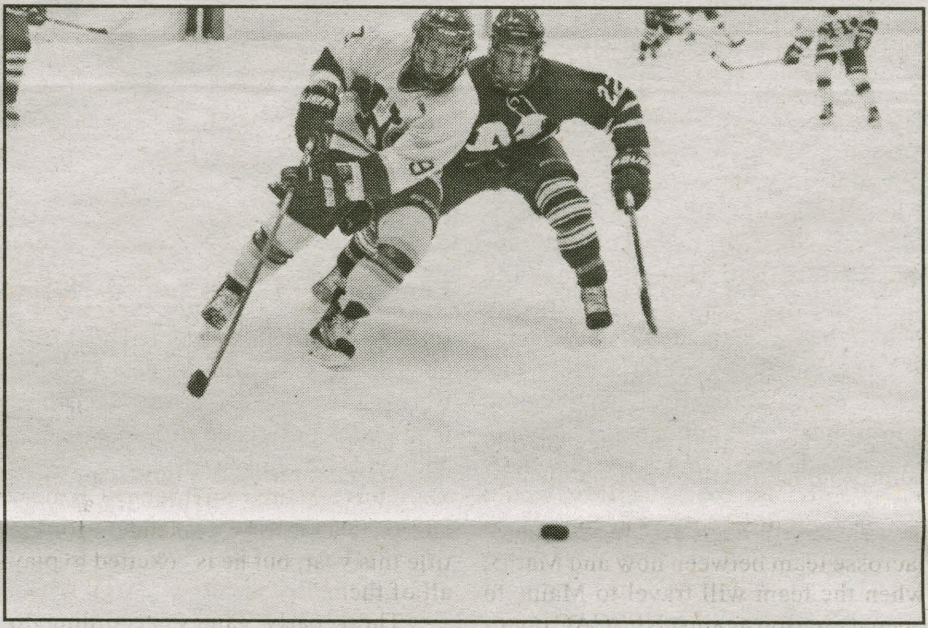


PHOTO BY ZACH BATSON '16

Despite controlling possession, Hamilton lost when Middlebury put home a rebound in OT.

Baseball team targets first NESCAC playoff appearance in program history

from Baseball, page 16

the team to work hard in the offseason to achieve success. Coach Byrnes comments that "the team has done a ton of preparation in the offseason; they work hard on the field during the open fall ball period and really hard in the weight room. The nice weather this spring has allowed us to get outside a little bit which should yield positive results, especially in the early going. It is not often that we experience early springs like this and we have taken full advantage.

The team had a great strength and fitness test prior to the start of spring practice. The team is bigger, strong and faster."

> "We will need solid contributions from our young pitching staff, and consistency from our hitters. If we can get those two things, our team is going to [be] very dangerous this season."
>
> *—Dean Rosenberg '16*

While the offseason productivity is encouraging for this team, all the hard work will be for naught if they cannot translate the hard work into success on the field. To ultimately reach their goals, the Continentals will have to perform in pressure situations and pull out tight NESCAC games. Specifically, Coach Byrnes said, "We will have to find a way to win the one and two run ball games against the top teams in our league, Amherst and Wesleyan, while not overlooking Williams and Middlebury." Such pressure-packed games can do in even the best teams. "We have to improve our results in close games, with a lineup full of veteran guys. We feel like we have a good chance at doing so," Coach Brynes told *The Spectator*.

While the goals are lofty, the team is focused and confident that the goals can be attained. Rosenberg said, "We will need solid contributions from our young pitching staff, and consistency from our hitters. If we can get those two things, our team is going to [be] very dangerous this season."

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE DOHERTY

Collins '17 is a part of a strong returning core for the Continentals.

Vogelbach echoed this sentiment: "With a veteran lineup returning and a handful of strong freshman additions, the baseball team looks to make a big statement in the NESCAC this year."

The excitement around this team is tangible and expectations are high for the fast approaching season. In looking ahead, Coach Byrnes said, "I look forward to seeing the team in action. We have had a very focused preseason and are looking forward to our season opening road trip to Bard College on Mar. 12."

After Bard, the Continentals head to Florida for spring break. Their first home game is Apr. 4 at DeLutis Field in Rome, and they take on Middlebury at Royce Field on Friday, Apr. 15 at 4 p.m.

Spectator Sports

March 3, 2016

M. hockey falls to Middlebury in OT in home playoff contest

by Kaitlin McCabe '16
Editor Emerita

Hamilton College's men's hockey season came to a heartbreaking conclusion on Saturday in the quarterfinal round of the NESCAC Championship. At 7:21 into overtime, the fifth-seeded Middlebury Panthers scored the winning goal to upset the fourth-seeded Continentals 2-1 and move on to the conference's semifinals. The Continentals closed the season (13-8-4; 8-6-4 NESCAC).

The game followed yet another nail-biting weekend of NESCAC competition, in which Hamilton traveled to Middlebury and Williams to clench a home playoff game, the Continentals' first since 2011. Packed with approximately 650 raucous fans, the Sage Rink teemed with more energy than it has contained all in seasons.

PHOTO BY ZACH BATSON '16

Landowski '17 has tallied 28 total points for Hamilton in his career.

The Panthers opened scoring just 2:50 into play on a goal by Evan Neugold, who blindsided Continental defenders with a high wrist shot. Despite various attempts on goal, Hamilton would remain scoreless until 39 seconds into the second period, when Robbie Murden '17—the NESCAC's leading goal scorer—successfully planted his 17th goal of the season in the net. Assists were made by Neil Conway '18, who leads with conference with 17 assists, and Tyler Lovejoy '16.

Through the remainder of regulation, the Continentals demonstrated an offensive hold over the game and practically secured a win with various heart-racing attempts, including those by Richard Court '19 with four minutes left in the second period and Murden in the third. A shot just barely touched the inside of the net before Middlebury goalie Liam Moorfield-Yee kicked it out of the crease.

As they did in both regulation contests, Hamilton and Middlebury ended regulation with equal goals, forcing the teams into overtime. The first overtime segment of five minutes remained inconclusive, thus leading the teams into yet another period of overtime play. The additional time commenced with Hamilton's attempt to clear the puck to the opposing side's end of the rink. Though the puck reached the end of the rink, it raced around the boards to slow at center ice once more. Middlebury forward Jake Charles secured the puck and shot a pass to teammate Vincent Gisonti, who proceeded to fire on the goal. Buitenhuis blocked the shot, but the resulting rebound gave Charles the perfect opportunity to score a surprise shot passed Buitenhuis' left.

Then, for the first time during the entire contest, the boisterous Hamilton crowd grew silent.

Statistics can often be misleading, but this time, the stats can't lie: Hamilton obviously outplayed Middlebury, coming into their full stride after the first period of the game. The Continentals outshot the visiting Panthers 41-25, including a 22-8 advantage in

*see **M. Hockey** page 15*

Baseball opens season Mar. 12

by Levi Lorenzo '19
Staff Writer

In the 2015 season, the Hamilton baseball team went 16-14 and posted its first winning record since 1990. The 16 wins included four wins out of 12 games played in the NESCAC, good enough for a tie for third place in the NESCAC West division with Williams. This year's team looks to build on last year's success.

Head coach Tim Byrnes notes that if the team can build on last year's improvements and momentum, "we have a chance at doing something special—reaching the postseason." According to Coach Byrnes, reaching the NESCAC playoffs for the first time in team history is one of the team's goals, along with, "building on the program record 16 wins in a single season."

Reaching these goals will require hard work. The graduation of outfielder Joe Jensen '15 leaves a big hole in the Continentals' lineup. Jensen led the 2015 team in at-bats, batting average, on-base percentage (among those with more than two plate appearances), stolen bases and runs scored. The team will also miss the pitching of Alex Pachella '15 and Jay Lane '15. While some talent was lost, the Continentals do bring back key contributors from last year's team, notably the power hitting duo of centerfielder Ryan Wolfsberg '17 and infielder Andrew Haser '17. The two tied for the team lead in runs batted in and home runs last season, while Wolfsberg finished a close second to Jensen in batting average and led the team in slugging percentage, extra base hits and total bases. On the pitching side, the team returns the big arms of Cole Dreyfuss '16, Spencer Vogelbach '18, Finlay O'Hara '17 and Daniel DePaoli '18.

The strong returning core will be relied on heavily as Coach Byrnes expects the team's key contributors to be "Dreyfuss, senior second [baseman] Zach Becker, junior outfielders Wolfsberg, Chris and Kenny Collins as well as junior first [baseman], pitcher and designated hitter Andrew Haser, and Vogelbach." In order for this team to be successful, these players will have to step up and deliver. Coach Byrnes also identifies "O'Hara, junior catcher Brett Mele, sophomore third [baseman] Dean Rosenberg and sophomore pitcher Dan DePaoli" as other players expected to play important roles.

The team's leaders have pushed

*see **Baseball**, page 15*

M. lacrosse aims high in NESCAC

by Will Rasenberger '19
Sports Contributor

Just two days before its opener against NESCAC opponent Colby College, the men's lacrosse team is looking forward to a season that will put to rest tough memories while capitalizing on the more hopeful memories from last season. Addressing the team's 2016 potential, co-captain attackman Sam Sweet '16 says that "more than any other year, we have the pieces in the puzzle to really do something and go far." Defenseman and fellow co-captain Sellers Garrett '16 echoed Sweet's optimism. "This year we're stressing that we have the capability and that we should be trying to win the NESCAC title, whereas in the past we were just trying to make it to the playoffs."

The source for all the enthusiasm is, ironically, a heartbreaking loss to Tufts in last year's quarterfinal playoff game. The Continentals came back from a 9-1 deficit to take the lead late in the game and almost win, but a last minute flurry of goals from Tufts resulted in a 15-12 loss for Hamilton. Despite the final score, the game highlighted how far the Continentals had come. Earlier in the season, Hamilton suffered a humiliating 25-6 defeat to Tufts. Their playoff performance brought them closer to eliminating the dominant Jumbos than any other NESCAC team throughout the playoffs. "It always sucks to lose," says Garrett, "but at the end of the game people were smiling."

The biggest reason for hope is the team's long-term progress. "The program has definitely evolved since we've been here," says Sweet. "Coach [Scott] Barnard is stressing the same philosophy, but he's built up a culture where all the team's tight and on the field we've improved as well. Every year since we've gotten here, we've improved a little bit."

Garrett believes that the increased competition of the NESCAC has also been beneficial for the team's progress since Hamilton made the switch from the Liberty League in 2011-2012. "Every class that comes in has been better than the last."

The Continentals enter this season with heads and hopes high. "After the Tufts game, our kids realized they could compete with anybody," Head Coach Scott Barnard says. "We finished on a positive note with fire and hunger in

*see **M. Lacrosse** page 14*